

## THE CONKING CAMPAIGN.

## Initiatory Movement Through Important Cabinet Changes.

## POINTING THE ENGINES OF PATRONAGE.

Don Cameron, Secretary of War; Judge Taft, Attorney General; Pierpont, Minister to England.

## ARRANGEMENTS TO SECURE PENNSYLVANIA.

General Grant's Estimate of the Various Candidates for Nomination.

## PHILADELPHIA SATISFIED.

A Modest Coyness Not Unbecoming a New Appointee.

## ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE UNDER ADVISEMENT.

WASHINGTON, May 22, 1876.

The President gave a genuine surprise to everybody this morning by the announcement of the following Cabinet changes:

Alphonse R. Taft, of Ohio, to be Attorney General. J. McDonald Cameron, of Pennsylvania, to be Secretary of War, and the appointment of Edwards Pierpont to be Minister to England.

There has been a buzz of discussion about their meaning all day. He has been some days talking confidentially with a number of influential Western and Southern politicians, Senators and members of Congress, and enough has leaked out in the conversation of some of them to show that General Grant has opened.

**THE CONKING CAMPAIGN.**  
In earnest. He has discussed with those he has called to the White House very freely the reasons why he prefers Mr. Conkling, and has been very frank in expressing himself as opposed to the nomination of Mr. Bristow. Mr. Blaine or any other candidate except Senator Conkling. He is understood to speak very kindly of Senator Morton, and some reports state that he has even gone so far as to say that if Mr. Morton had good health he would make the preferable candidate of all. But, in the President's opinion,

**MR. MORTON'S HEALTH.**  
is such that he might be disabled in the midst of his administration, and thus cause confusion in the party and injury to the country.

**WHAT THE PRESIDENT DESIRES.**  
The President has told a number of influential persons during the last ten days that he does not himself desire a nomination, and is determined on no account to accept it; that he has served the party for sixteen years, has been abundantly rewarded and is very tired of public office, and that he counts the days until he shall be relieved. He expresses himself as very anxious for the

**SUCCESS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.**  
In November, believes that this is necessary to the welfare of the country, and thinks in Mr. Conkling's hands the party would be safe and the country secure. He says that he will give his strong support to the Cincinnati candidates, whoever they may be, but he urges the nomination of Mr. Conkling in preference to all the other candidates, regarding him as a statesman, as he says, without reproach and of great ability, of great popularity in the country; and he is understood to have said that the only thing that can injure Mr. Conkling or be brought against him by anybody is that he has so consistently and zealously supported General Grant's administration.

**THE NOMINATION OF DON CAMERON.**  
to be Secretary of War is regarded here as an arrangement to secure the vote of Pennsylvania in the Convention to Mr. Conkling. There were rumors several weeks ago of such an arrangement as necessary to secure the zealous support of Senator Cameron and his followers in Pennsylvania, and the certainty with which Mr. Conkling's friends here have, for five or six weeks, counted on the Pennsylvania delegation, contrary to the belief of others, is thought to show that the present change has been for some time in contemplation.

**THE VICE PRESIDENCY.**  
begins also to be talked of, and it is believed that the President has his preferences in regard to this office. He is understood to be favorably disposed to a number of persons, but to several of his friends he has specially named

**MR. MCCLARY, OF IOWA,**  
and Senator Alcorn, of Mississippi. It is believed that if the Southern delegates in Convention should ask for the nomination of Mr. Alcorn he would have the President's influence in his favor, and this on the ground that in that case he would be supposed strong enough to carry several Southern States, and thus make the chances of a republican success stronger.

**THE PLAN OF CAMPAIGN.**  
developed or unmade to-day is an undoubtedly strong one. It evidently means to secure to Mr. Conkling, at the opening of the Cincinnati Convention, the votes of New York, Pennsylvania and all, or nearly all, of the Southern States. The expectation, probably, is to secure all except Kentucky, which will go to Mr. Bristow, and Delaware, which has but six votes. If this plan is successful Mr. Conkling would thus have 334 votes to begin with, besides the scattering votes from other States, and there would be little doubt of his nomination. Of course these votes would not appear on the first ballot, as probably a considerable part of the South will want to give Mr. Morton and Mr. Blaine

**A COMPLEMENTARY VOTE.**  
The influence of the President's wishes, wherever he makes them positively known among the Southern republicans, is very strong—enough in most cases to over-ride their preferences for any other candidate. There is no doubt that General Grant himself is the first choice of all or nearly all of the colored republican leaders in the South, and of many of the whites as well. Naturally these defer to his wishes, if he chooses to make them known. Moreover, he knows how to use

**HIS SOUTHERN PATRONAGE.**  
to secure the predominance of his wishes, as in the appointment just made of Mayor to be Marshal in Alabama, which insures Senator Spencer's zealous support to Mr. Conkling in the Convention, while it gives the cold shoulder to the honest part of the republican party in Alabama, and treats them as rebels against the regular party organization.

**COMMENTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION.**  
Naturally the Cabinet changes excite remark not always favorable. Among the republicans to-day some of them say, "The President has begun too late," some are indignant at what they call open favoritism, but there is an impression that General Grant has again his campaign as he did during the war, after a careful study of the situation and a decision to win.

**THE QUESTION OF WITNESS.**  
in the new appointment does not appear to come up at all in discussion. The political bearings of Mr. Cameron's appointment alone are considered.

**SURPRISE EXCITED.**  
The appointment of Don Cameron to the War Department excited the more surprise here to-day because it is very well known that his father, the Senator, has quite recently complained that he had not been well treated by the President, and that he did

not expect any favors in that quarter. To-day, after the confirmation of his son, the old gentleman took his lunch in the room of the Committee on Foreign Relations, evidently in a very comfortable frame of mind, and talking guardedly over Presidential prospects.

**PART OF A GENERAL PLAN.**  
It is reported this evening on what seems to be good authority that the elevation of the younger Cameron is part of a general plan which involves the retirement of Senator Cameron after the election, the election of General Hartranft to the Senate in return for his giving up his Presidential aspirations and co-operating with the Camerons in controlling the Pennsylvania vote at Cincinnati, and an understanding that if Mr. Conkling becomes President one or the other of the Camerons shall have a place in his Cabinet.

In this way the political rivalry in Pennsylvania is harmonized, and Senator Cameron, who was seventy-seven last March, has secured a political future for his heir.

**THE CONFIRMATION BY THE SENATE.**  
As soon as the Senate went into executive session to-day the nomination of Mr. Pierpont was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, that of Mr. Taft to the Committee on the Judiciary and that of Mr. Cameron to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Senators Cameron, Edmunds and Logan, the respective chairmen of those committees, soon thereafter made favorable reports on the nominations, which were confirmed by the Senate without debate, the reception of the nominations from the President, their references, the reports thereon and the final action occupying less than one hour.

**THE NEW APPOINTMENT HEARD FROM.**  
The newly appointed Secretary of War was heard from by telegraph to-night, in answer to congratulations of his friends, and, somewhat curiously, his mind seems not yet made up as to his acceptance of the position of Cabinet Minister. He says that he fully

**APPRECIATES THE HONOR**  
conferred upon him by both the President and his nomination and the Senate in the compliance of his immediate confirmation. He had been unwell for a few days and was just now under the care of a doctor for

**A TEMPORARY ALIENMENT,**  
for which reason he did not expect to reach Washington until near the close of the week. This interval of time would enable him to decide whether he should accept the appointment or not.

## THE FEELING IN PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., May 22, 1876.  
The appointment of Don Cameron to a seat in the Cabinet appears to have taken the leading politicians here by surprise, for while the more prominent Pennsylvania republicans have long known that Don Cameron's ambition was in that direction, no one seems to have expected his gratification at this time. Some of the leading men of the party in Philadelphia as can be found at this hour express approval of the appointment.

**VIEW OF COLONEL FORNEY.**  
Colonel Forney preferred not to say much regarding the son of his old political enemy. He, however, expressed his gratification at the President's recognition of the Pennsylvania republican party. Since the appointment of Bristow to the Navy Department this was the first nomination the President had made from Pennsylvania. Colonel Forney believed it was satisfactory to the party.

## VIEW OF A BLAINE MAN.

General Blingham, a leading republican delegate to the National Convention, said that the appointment would have no demoralizing effect upon the Pennsylvania delegation at the Convention. He did not at all think it meant an endorsement of Mr. Conkling, so he said, on the contrary, it would consolidate the delegation and aid materially in nominating a son of Pennsylvania to the Presidency. He considered the appointment

**A DESERVED TRIUMPH**  
to one of the best business men in the State. General Blingham is a worker for Blaine, and is supposed to have charge of his interests in Pennsylvania. Hartranft is Blingham's first choice, but Blaine is second. Other republicans differed with General Blingham, admitting that Cameron's appointment looked like an exposure of Conkling's cause, which might injure Blaine's chances very much.

## AT MR. CAMERON'S HOME.

HARRISBURG, May 22, 1876.  
This city is in a blaze of excitement to-night over the announcement that Mr. J. Donald Cameron has been appointed Secretary of War. Everybody is rejoiced except Mr. Cameron, and he is in such a quandary regarding his acceptance that he makes either himself or the President appear exceedingly absurd.

**IS BARKER WILLING?**  
I called on him at his elegant residence, on Front street, this evening, but he said he was unable to discuss the subject of his appointment because he had not yet determined what action he would take. This statement can only be regarded as very funny, as the allegation that he was promised a place in

## MR. CONKLING'S CABINET.

In case of the Senator's election to the Presidency is a source of real weakness to the New York statesman. I called Mr. Cameron's attention to this, and he declared he had never heard of any such thing. Considering that the charge has been made in the most influential newspapers in the State, and in the mouths of all the partisans of Mr. Blaine in the Pennsylvania delegation, Mr. Cameron must be an ill-informed or an incapable politician if what he says is true. I have excellent reasons for saying that Mr. Cameron was

**AWARE OF THE FACT**  
that President Grant intended nominating him to the Senate before the nomination was made, and one of his most trusted lieutenants was summoned to Washington on Sunday to be on hand when the coup d'état should be accomplished. Another fact which bears in the same direction may be found in this—that at the very moment Mr. Cameron was telling that he had not yet made up his mind to accept the post which the President has tendered him, preparations were making to give him a serenade, and he had designated Judge Pearson, of the Court of Common Pleas, to speak for him in response to the Mayor and people of Harrisburg.

**THE SERENADE.**  
took place at nine o'clock this evening, and although a light rain was falling at the time, the gathering was a large one.

**THE CITY.**  
is full of lawyers and politicians from the neighboring counties in attendance upon the Supreme Court, and among these Mr. Cameron's good fortune is the subject of general discussion. The political significance of the appointment is not understood and outside of the citizens of Harrisburg, whose felicitations Mr. Cameron in his lit,

**THE SENATE.**  
speaking in response to the serenade, which was a surprise to his hearers in his being made at all, professed to regard as even dearer to him than the President's partiality, there is not much joy over the event. In effect, however, the nomination can scarcely fail to be

**DIFFIDENTIAL TO MR. CONKLING.**  
It is not believed that a young man like Mr. Cameron, who has never held office or had any experience in public affairs, could have received this appointment except as part of a political bargain involving Mr. Conkling's claims to the Presidency.

**BLAINE'S FRIENDS**  
are naturally incensed, and will push their opposition to Conkling in consequence. Mr. Cameron is a delegate at large to the Cincinnati Convention, and it is remarked that there is manifest propriety in his serving in that body while acting as Secretary of War, or of being appointed Secretary

**JAMES DONALD CAMERON.**  
The new Secretary of War, James Donald Cameron, or, as he is called in Pennsylvania politics, Don Cameron, is the eldest son of the Hon. Simon Cameron, the senior Senator from the State of Pennsylvania. Mr. Cameron is now about forty-two years of age and was born in Pennsylvania. His mother was formerly

**A BLUNDER.**  
and it may be well for the interests of the republican party that he is really in doubt about his acceptance. Such a thing as a doubt on his part regarding acceptance is not thought of here, and Mr. Cameron's declaration will, I doubt not, create a great deal of surprise.

Miss Bruns, a descendant of an old Pennsylvania family. He was educated for a business life and became the president and cashier of two or three banks in Harrisburg, Middletown and elsewhere. He took an active interest in the development of the railway system of Pennsylvania and was for some time the President of the Northern Central Railway, the main line from Baltimore to Harrisburg. It was in the management of this road that the genius of Mr. Cameron for affairs—for the government of men and for handling large trusts—first became known. Mr. Cameron remained in the control of the Northern Central until the railway passed into the hands of the Pennsylvania Central, when he retired from the railway and gave his time to his personal affairs and largely to politics. As his father, the Senator, retired from the active control of Pennsylvania politics on account of his advancing years, Mr. Cameron assumed his place and has long been a leader of courage, singular foresight and ability. Lacking the genial bonhomie of the Senator, Mr. Cameron was cold, reserved and shy in his manner, and faced into the republican party a discipline which had never before been known, even in Pennsylvania.

This was shown in the first canvass of General Hartranft for Governor. An important fragment of the republican party, under the leadership of Colonel Young and Colonel McClure, maintained against the nomination of Governor Hartranft, opposed his canvass in October, and in doing so menaced the success of Grant in November. There was a panic arising out of this meeting and a disposition on the part of the republicans to withdraw General Hartranft, which was prevented mainly, if not altogether, by the courage and energy of Mr. Cameron, who insisted that the party should stand without flinching and that they should succeed without him. The result of this determination was the election of Hartranft and the carrying of the State for Grant by an unprecedented majority.

Mr. Cameron is a man of large fortune, estimated at from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000, and although his nomination may be unfavorably regarded by a wing of the republican party in Pennsylvania, it will no doubt give satisfaction to the general bulk of the organization. His political meaning is that Mr. Cameron, as a supporter of Conkling, is recognized by President Grant. Mr. Cameron is a widower and resides at Harrisburg.

## THE STORM.

**A WATERPOUT IN PENNSYLVANIA—GREAT DESTRUCTION TO CROPS—NEWTON, IN NEW YORK, VISITED WITH A HEAVY HAIL STORM—DESTRUCTION IN THE NORTHWEST.**

SCARFORD, Pa., May 22, 1876.  
A terrific storm swept over this region yesterday afternoon and worked considerable destruction to the crops along the mountains north of this city. At about two o'clock the gathering tempest was seen coming up from the north, accompanied by an occasional puff of thunder, until an immense black cloud hung over the mountains, spreading like a pall over the farming villages known as the North, Abington, Scott and several other places. At the afternoon advanced the clouds grew denser and the thunder increased, accompanied by vivid flashes of lightning, until the tempest fairly broke over the storm.

At about four o'clock the people living in the villages already mentioned were startled by a roaring sound which seemed to issue from the cloud, and was fairly deafening in its effect. This strange sound rushed down the hills, and in a short time a heavy hail of rain and sleet fell upon the people. The hail was so large and so fast that it descended half a mile further north. This mimic waterpout had scarcely spent its force when a terrific hail storm descended all along the upper portion of the Lackawanna Valley, extending quite close to this city, and demolishing and scattering the crops. The hail was so large and so fast that it descended half a mile further north. This mimic waterpout had scarcely spent its force when a terrific hail storm descended all along the upper portion of the Lackawanna Valley, extending quite close to this city, and demolishing and scattering the crops. The hail was so large and so fast that it descended half a mile further north. 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